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Vexilla regis

Robert Hugh Benson

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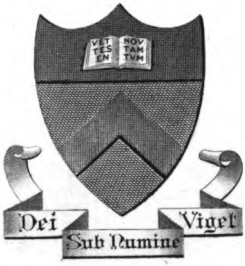

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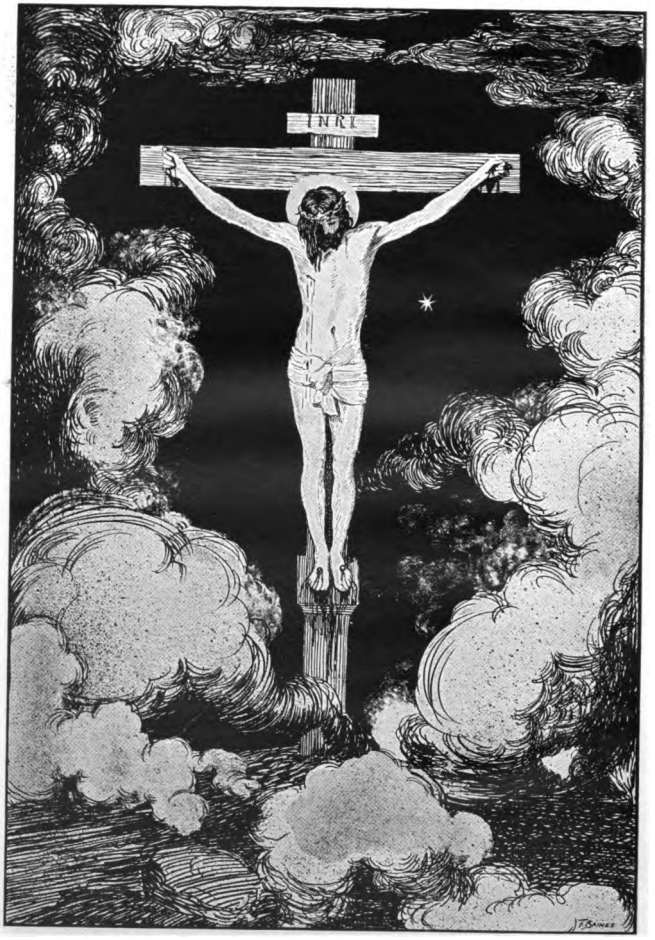

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VEXILLA REGIS

A Book of Devotions and Intercessions on behalf of all our Authorities, our Soldiers and Sailors, our Allies, the Mourners and Destitute, and all affected by the War

ARRANGED, TRANSLATED, AND COMPILED BY
THE VERY REV. MGR. BENSON, M.A.
PRIEST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

WITH A PREFATORY NOTE BY
THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF SALFORD

Second Impression

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H. S. BOWDEN,
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Imprimatur.

EDM. CAN. SURMONT,
Vic. gen.

WESTMONASTERII,
October 1914.

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PREFATORY NOTE

I AM greatly touched at being asked by the Publishers to give the final revise to this beautiful and deeply consoling little book for use in time of war, the "last message," as it truly is, of Robert Hugh Benson to his sorrowing countrymen. The last proofs were actually in his hands, when he was stricken with his fatal malady, and merely awaited his final passing for the press. It was one of those strange dispensations of an All-Wise Providence that I should be confined to my bed at my ordinary residence at the very moment when he was dying on my own bed in my room at Bishop's House, Salford, and that during those last hours, unable alas! to visit him, I should be reading his wonderfully realistic description of the death-bed of an English King, at the conclusion of his latest powerful novel. There are passages in *Vexilla Regis* that might have been written for himself, and I earnestly trust that those innumerable readers, who will find therein comfort and inspiration in their day

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of sorrow and fitting supplication for the dear ones who have been called away in these sad times, will not fail to include his name among those for whose speedy and eternal repose they raise their hands in prayer.

May his soul rest in peace!

✠ LOUIS CHARLES,
Bishop of Salford.

St. Bede's College,
22 Oct. 1914.

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PREFACE

THE present volume is an attempt to supply material and suggestions for prayer during the time of trouble now upon us, for those who desire more precise and individual aids than can be put forward by public authority. The compiler has followed more or less the lines indicated by the Offices of the Church, believing that so venerable and orderly a system must surely guide the soul more skilfully and effectively than can any spasmodic or emotional method. Further, since it is obvious that prayers consecrated by centuries, and, supremely, the words of Holy Scripture, offer more security in the approach to the Throne of Mercy than can any original compositions, he has done his utmost to use these so far as possible (especially the words of the Psalter) with but few adaptations even in the prayers he has translated; and has only composed a few others so far as he found it absolutely necessary. Several of the prayers are taken, by kind permission of the publishers, Messrs. Parker & Son, at Oxford, from Bright's "Ancient Collects." He has drawn up a different scheme for each day

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of the week, suggesting by the titles of each a particular intention; and has added a number of detached psalms and prayers and other devotions, for each individual to use as it pleases him. The book, from the conditions under which it appears, has been drawn up very rapidly; and the compiler begs pardon for any slips or omissions of which he may have been guilty.

Finally, since he believes that, along the broadest and deepest lines, England and her allies are fighting for the cause of justice and liberty against the assault of cruelty and tyranny, he has not scrupled to insert petitions that entreat, outright, for victory from the God of Battles.

R. H. B.

October 1914.

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VEXILLA REGIS

PART I

FORMS OF PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY

[*Intention: For a happy and just issue.*]

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe.

℣. O God, come to my assistance.
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Ant. Ye holy angels, who stand always before God in heaven, defend us in battle, that we perish not in the tremendous judgement.

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Ps. lxxxix.

Domine, refugium.

A prayer of Moses, the man of God.

LORD, Thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation.

Before the mountains were made, or the earth and the world was formed; from eternity and to eternity Thou art God.

Turn not man away to be brought low: and Thou hast said: Be converted, O ye sons of men.

For a thousand years in Thy sight *are* as yesterday, which is past.

And as a watch in the night, *as* things that are counted nothing, shall their years be.

In the morning *man* shall grow up like grass, in the morning he shall flourish and pass away: in the evening he shall fall, grow dry and wither.

For in Thy wrath we have fainted away: and are troubled in Thy indignation.

Thou hast set our iniquities before Thy eyes: our life in the light of Thy countenance.

For all our days are spent; and in Thy wrath we have fainted away.

Our years shall be considered as a spider: the days of our years in them are threescore, and ten years.

But if in the strong *they be* fourscore years: and what is more of them is labour and sorrow.

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For mildness is come upon us: and we shall be corrected.

Who knoweth the power of Thy anger, and for Thy fear can number Thy wrath?

So make Thy right hand known: and men learned in heart, in wisdom.

Return, O Lord, how long? and be entreated in favour of Thy servants.

We were filled in the morning with Thy mercy: and we have rejoiced, and are delighted all our days.

We have rejoiced for the days in which Thou hast humbled us: for the years in which we have seen evils.

Look upon Thy servants and upon their works: and direct their children.

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us: and direct Thou the works of our hands over us; yea, the work of our hands do Thou direct.

Glory be.

Ant. Ye holy angels, who stand always before God in heaven, defend us in battle, that we perish not in the tremendous judgement.

The Chapter.

Isa. lxi.

THE Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me: He hath sent me to preach to the

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meek, to heal the contrite of heart, and to preach a release to the captives, and deliverance to them that are shut up.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God: to comfort all that mourn:

To appoint to the mourners of Sion, and to give them a crown for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, a garment of praise for the spirit of grief: and they shall be called in it the mighty ones of justice, the planting of the Lord to glorify Him.

And they shall build the places that have been waste from of old, and shall raise up ancient ruins, and shall repair the desolate cities, that were destroyed for generation and generation.

And strangers shall stand and shall feed your flocks: and the sons of strangers shall be your husbandmen, and the dressers of your vines.

But you shall be called the priests of the Lord: to you it shall be said: Ye ministers of our God: you shall eat the riches of the gentiles, and you shall pride yourselves in their glory.

For your double confusion and shame, they shall praise their part: therefore shall they receive double in their land, everlasting joy shall be unto them.

For I am the Lord that love judgement, and hate robbery in a holocaust: and I

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will make their work in truth, and I will make a perpetual covenant with them.

And they shall know their seed among the gentiles, and their offspring in the midst of peoples: all that shall see them, shall know them, that these are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation: and with the robe of justice he hath covered me, as a bridegroom decked with a crown, and as a bride adorned with her jewels.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth her seed to shoot forth: so shall the Lord God make justice to spring forth, and praise before all the nations.

℟. Thanks be to God.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Our Father.

℣. Save Thy servants.
℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
℣. Let not the enemy prevail against them.

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℟. Nor the son of iniquity approach to hurt them.
℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
℟. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.
℣. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff Benedict.
℟. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.
℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.
℟. Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, to reward with eternal life all them that do us good. Amen.
℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.
℟. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
℣. For our absent brethren.
℟. Save Thy servants who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Send them help, O Lord, from the sanctuary.
℟. And defend them out of Sion.
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

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Let us pray.

For humility.

Almighty and Everlasting God, in whose hand lieth the scourge of war, and who dost dispose the passions of men and nations as seemeth good to Thy Divine Majesty; grant us grace, we beseech Thee, on whom Thou hast laid Thy heavy discipline, so to humble our hearts in acknowledgment of our sins that have merited so heavy a chastisement, that, purged by Thy wrath and Thy mercy from all our iniquities, we may better deserve the blessings of peace.

For the Church.

Look mercifully, O good Shepherd, on Thy flock; and suffer not the sheep which Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood to be torn in pieces by the assaults of the devil.

For the Sovereign Pontiff.

Almighty, Everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant Benedict, our Sovereign Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy clemency, into the way of everlasting salvation; that, by Thy grace, he may both desire those things that are pleasing to Thee, and perform them with all his strength.

For our soldiers and sailors.

O God, who by Thine ineffable Providence dost deign to send Thine angels to be the guardians of Thy children; grant to Thy servants always to be defended by their protection, and to dwell for ever in their fellowship.

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For victory.

O Lord God of battles, give strength to our arms; and, since we desire only Thy greater glory and the peace of Thy children, do Thou crown that strength with triumph.

Through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.
℣. May the Almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.
℟. Amen.
℣. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
℟. Amen.

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MONDAY

[*Intention: For the dead.*]

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe.

℣. O God, come to my assistance.
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Ant. The Lord keepeth thee from all evil: may the Lord keep thy soul.

Ps. cxxix.

De profundis.

OUT of the depths I have cried to Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities; Lord, who shall stand it?

For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of Thy law I have waited for Thee, O Lord.

My soul hath relied on His word: my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

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From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy: and with Him plentiful redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Ps. cxix.

Ad Dominum.

IN my trouble I cried to the Lord: and He heard me.

O Lord, deliver my soul from wicked lips, and a deceitful tongue.

What shall be given to thee, or what shall be added to thee, to a deceitful tongue?

The sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals that lay waste.

Wo is me, that my sojourning is prolonged! I have dwelt with the inhabitants of Cedar: my soul hath been long a sojourner.

With them that hated peace I was peaceable: when I spoke to them they fought against me without cause.

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

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Ps. cxx.

Levavi oculos.

I HAVE lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from whence help shall come to me.

My help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

May He not suffer thy foot to be moved; neither let Him slumber that keepeth thee.

Behold He shall neither slumber nor sleep, that keepeth Israel.

The Lord is thy keeper, the Lord is thy protection upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not burn thee by day: nor the moon by night.

The Lord keepeth thee from all evil; may the Lord keep thy soul.

May the Lord keep thy coming in and thy going out; from henceforth now and for ever.

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Ant. The Lord keepeth thee from all evil: may the Lord keep thy soul.

The Chapter.

1 Cor. xv. 19–26: 50–55

IF in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

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But now Christ is risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep:

For by a man *came* death, and by a man the resurrection of the dead.

And as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

But every one in his own order: the first-fruits of Christ, then they that are of Christ, who have believed in His coming.

Afterwards the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God and the Father, when He shall have brought to nought all principality, and power, and virtue.

For He must reign, *Until He hath put all enemies under His feet.*

And the enemy death shall be destroyed last. . . .

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot possess the kingdom of God: neither shall corruption possess incorruption.

Behold I tell you a mystery. We shall all indeed rise again: but we shall not all be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise again incorruptible; and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption; and this mortal must put on immortality.

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And when this mortal hath put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: *Death is swallowed up in victory.*

O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?

℟. Thanks be to God.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Our Father.

℣. Save Thy servants.
℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
℣. Let not the enemy prevail against them.
℟. Nor the son of iniquity approach to hurt them.
℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
℟. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.
℣. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff Benedict.
℟. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.
℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.

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℟. Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, to reward with eternal life all them that do us good. Amen.
℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.
℟. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
℣. For our absent brethren.
℟. Save Thy servants who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Send them help, O Lord, from the sanctuary.
℟. And defend them out of Sion.
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

For the dead.

Incline, O Lord, Thine ear to our prayers in which we Thy suppliants entreat Thy mercy, that Thou mayest set the souls of Thy servants, whom Thou hast commanded to depart from this world, in a place of peace and light, and mayest bid them to the company of Thy saints.

Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the souls of Thy servants from every chain of their sins ; that, when they rise again in the glory of the resurrection, they may live amongst Thy saints and elect.

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For those at the very point of death.

Remember not, O Lord, the sins of their youth and their ignorances, but according to Thy great mercy be mindful of their souls in the brightness of their glory. May the heavens open before them, and the angels rejoice at their coming. Into Thy kingdom, Lord, receive Thy servants. May Michael, Archangel of God, welcome them, who is chief of the heavenly host. May the angels of God come to meet them and lead them into Jerusalem, the celestial city. May blessed Peter the apostle receive them, to whom have been given the keys of the heavenly kingdom. May Saint Paul the apostle help them, who was worthy to be made a vessel of election. May Saint John, chosen apostle of God, intercede for them, to whom were revealed the secrets of heaven. May all the holy apostles pray for them, to whom was given by the Lord the power to bind and to loose. May all the saints and elect of God intercede for them, who for the name of Christ have borne torments in this world: that, released from the bonds of the flesh, they may be worthy to attain to the glory of the heavenly kingdom, by the aid of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, world without end. Amen.

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Let us pray.

For our soldiers and sailors.

Stretch forth, O Lord, upon Thy servants the right hand of Thy heavenly help, that they may seek Thee with their whole heart, and obtain what they rightly ask for.

For victory.

Guide, O Lord, our chiefs, and encourage all who serve, that, inspired only by ambition for Thy glory, they may be numbered now and always amongst Thy victorious servants. Through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord, who, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.
℣. May the Almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.
℟. Amen.
℣. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
℟. Amen.

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TUESDAY

[*Intention: For the dying, the wounded, and those who tend them.*]

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe.

℣. O God, come to my assistance.
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Ant. Hear my cry, O Lord.

Ps. lxxxvii.

Domine, Deus salutis.

O LORD, the God of my salvation: I have cried in the day, and in the night before Thee.

Let my prayer come in before Thee: incline Thy ear to my petition.

For my soul is filled with evils: and my life hath drawn nigh to hell.

I am counted among them that go down to the pit: I am become as a man without help, free among the dead.

Like the slain sleeping in the sepulchres, whom Thou rememberest no more: and they are cast off from Thy hand.

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They have laid me in the lower pit: in the dark places, and in the shadow of death.

Thy wrath is strong over me: and all Thy waves Thou hast brought in upon me.

Thou hast put away my acquaintance far from me: they have set me an abomination to themselves.

I was delivered up, and came not forth: my eyes languished through poverty.

All the day I cried to Thee, O Lord: I stretched out my hands to Thee.

Wilt Thou shew wonders to the dead? or shall physicians raise to life, and give praise to Thee?

Shall any one in the sepulchre declare Thy mercy: and Thy truth in destruction?

Shall Thy wonders be known in the dark; and Thy justice in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, have cried to Thee: and in the morning my prayer shall prevent Thee.

Lord, why castest Thou off my prayer: why turnest Thou away Thy face from me?

I am poor, and in labours from my youth: and being exalted have been humbled and troubled.

Thy wrath hath come upon me: and Thy terrors have troubled me.

They have come round about me like

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water all the day: they have compassed me about together.

Friend and neighbour Thou hast put far from me: and my acquaintance, because of misery.

Glory be.

Ps. v.

Verba mea auribus

GIVE ear, O Lord, to my words, understand my cry.

Hearken to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God.

For to Thee will I pray: O Lord, in the morning Thou shalt hear my voice.

In the morning I will stand before Thee, and will see: that Thou art not a God that willest iniquity.

Neither shall the wicked dwell near Thee: nor shall the unjust abide before Thy eyes.

Thou hatest all the workers of iniquity: Thou wilt destroy all that speak a lie.

The bloody and the deceitful man the Lord will abhor.

But as for me in the multitude of Thy mercy,

I will come into Thy house; I will worship towards Thy holy temple, in Thy fear.

Conduct me, O Lord, in Thy justice: because of my enemies, direct my way in Thy sight.

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For there is no truth in their mouth: their heart is vain.

Their throat is an open sepulchre: they dealt deceitfully with their tongues: judge them, O God.

Let them fall from their devices: according to the multitude of their wickednesses cast them out: for they have provoked Thee, O Lord.

But let all them be glad that hope in Thee: they shall rejoice for ever, and Thou shalt dwell in them.

And all they that love Thy name shall glory in Thee:

For Thou wilt bless the just.

O Lord, Thou hast crowned us, as with a shield of Thy good will.

Glory be.

Ant. Hear my cry, O Lord.

The Chapter.

Apoc. xxii. 1–5

AND he shewed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street thereof, and on both sides of the river, *was* the tree of life, bearing twelve fruits, yielding its fruits every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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And there shall be no curse any more: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

And they shall see His face: and His name shall be on their foreheads.

And night shall be no more: and they shall not need the light of the lamp, nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall enlighten them, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

℟. Thanks be to God.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Our Father.

℣. Save Thy servants.
℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
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℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
℟. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.
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℟. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.
℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.
℟. Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, to reward with eternal life all them that do us good. Amen.
℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.
℟. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
℣. For our absent brethren.
℟. Save Thy servants who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Send them help, O Lord, from the sanctuary.
℟. And defend them out of Sion.
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

For those in their last agony.

O most merciful Jesus, lover of souls, I entreat Thee by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thine immaculate Mother; wash in Thy Blood the sinners for whom I implore Thy mercy, laid now in agony and to die to-day.

For the sick and wounded.

O God, with whom it is an easy thing to give life to the dead; restore the sick and wounded to their former health, and let none that implore the healing of Thy

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heavenly mercy be in want of the remedies of earthly medicine.

For doctors and nurses.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to all who tend the suffering, the help of Thy Divine wisdom and the protection of Thy right hand, that, their skill being blessed by Thy Providence, their courage may never fail. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray.

For our soldiers and sailors.

May the strength of the Holy Ghost be with Thy servants we beseech Thee, O Lord; that it may, by Thy mercy, cleanse their hearts and preserve them from all adversity.

For victory.

Teach, O Lord, our hands to fight and our fingers to war; give us courage in trouble, patience in suspense, and mercy in victory; that, led by Thine hand, and protected under Thy wings, we may come at last to an honourable triumph.

Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth One God, world without end. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.
℣. May the Almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.
℟. Amen.
℣. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.
℟. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY

[*Intention: For prisoners; the timid and anxious.*]

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe.

℣. O God, come to my assistance.
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Ant. God hath commanded His angels concerning thee to keep thee in all thy ways.

Ps. lxxiii.

Ut quid, Deus.

O GOD, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end: why is Thy wrath enkindled against the sheep of Thy pasture?

Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.

The sceptre of Thy inheritance which Thou hast redeemed: mount Sion, in which Thou hast dwelt.

Lift up Thy hands against their pride unto the end; see what things the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.

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And they that hate Thee have made their boasts, in the midst of Thy solemnity.

They have set up their ensigns for signs: and they knew not both in the going out and on the highest top.

As with axes in a wood of trees, they have cut down at once the gates thereof, with axe and hatchet they have brought it down.

They have set fire to Thy sanctuary: they have defiled the dwelling place of Thy name on the earth.

They said in their heart, the whole kindred of them together: Let us abolish all the festival days of God from the land.

Our signs we have not seen, there is now no prophet: and He will know us no more.

How long, O God, shall the enemy reproach: is the adversary to provoke Thy name for ever?

Why dost Thou turn away Thy hand: and Thy right hand out of the midst of Thy bosom for ever?

But God is our King before ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Thou by Thy strength didst make the sea firm: Thou didst crush the heads of the dragons in the waters.

Thou hast broken the heads of the dragon: Thou hast given him to be meat for the people of the Ethiopians.

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Thou hast broken up the fountains and the torrents: Thou hast dried up the Ethan rivers.

Thine is the day, and Thine is the night: Thou hast made the morning light and the sun.

Thou hast made all the borders of the earth: the summer and the spring were formed by Thee.

Remember this, the enemy hath reproached the Lord: and a foolish people hath provoked Thy name.

Deliver not up to beasts the souls that confess to Thee: and forget not to the end the souls of Thy poor.

Have regard to Thy covenant: for they that are the obscure of the earth have been filled with dwellings of iniquity.

Let not the humble be turned away with confusion: the poor and needy shall praise Thy name.

Arise, O God, judge Thy own cause: remember Thy reproaches with which the foolish man hath reproached Thee all the day.

Forget not the voices of Thy enemies: the pride of them that hate Thee ascendeth continually.

Glory be.

Ant. God hath commanded His angels concerning thee to keep thee in all thy ways.

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The Chapter.

1 Peter i. 3–9; iv. 12–19

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy hath regenerated us unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that cannot fade, reserved in heaven for you,

Who, by the power of God, are kept by faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein you shall greatly rejoice, if now you must be for a little time made sorrowful in divers temptations:

That the trial of your faith much more precious than gold (which is tried by the fire) may be found unto praise and glory and honour at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Whom having not seen, you love: in whom also now, though you see Him not, you believe: and believing shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and glorified,

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

. . . . . .

Dearly beloved, think not strange the burning heat which is to try you, as if some new thing happened to you:

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One of His disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, saith to Him:

There is a boy here that hath five barley loaves, and two fishes; but what are these among so many?

Then Jesus said: Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. The men therefore sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves: and when He had given thanks, He distributed to them that were sat down. In like manner also of the fishes as much as they would.

And when they were filled, He said to His disciples: Gather up the fragments that remain, lest they be lost.

They gathered up therefore, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above to them that had eaten.

. . . . . .

Then Jesus said to them: Amen, amen, I say to you: Moses gave you not bread from heaven, but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is that which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life to the world.

They said therefore unto Him: Lord, give us always this bread.

And Jesus said to them: I am the Bread of Life, he that cometh to Me shall

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℣. Save Thy servants.
℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
℣. Let not the enemy prevail against them.
℟. Nor the son of iniquity approach to hurt them.
℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
℟. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.
℣. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff Benedict.
℟. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.
℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.
℟. Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, to reward with eternal life all them that do us good. Amen.
℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.
℟. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
℣. For our absent brethren.
℟. Save thy servants who hope in Thee, O my God.

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Let us pray.

For sinners.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who wast led forth to the pain of the Cross for the salvation of the world; we humbly beseech Thee that, by the power of Thy most sacred Passion, Thou wouldst blot out the sins of Thy servants, and mercifully bring their souls to Thine everlasting glory.

For our enemies.

Tread down under Thy feet, O Lord, all those of our enemies who are also Thine; instruct the ignorant and have mercy on those who think that they do Thee service; that, chastised by Thy hand and enlightened by Thy grace, they may be numbered amongst our brethren and Thine own children. Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Let us pray.

For our soldiers and sailors.

I beseech Thee, O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, that Thy Passion may be to Thy servants strength for their protection, defence, and guard. May Thy wounds be to them meat and drink by which they may be nourished, satisfied, and delighted. May the sprinkling of Thy Blood be to them for the washing away of all their sins. May Thy Death be to them eternal glory; and in all may they find refreshment, joy, health, and sweetness of heart.

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For victory.

O Prince of Peace, who goest in dyed apparel, go with our armies and direct our battle array, that, guided by Thine all-seeing Providence, we may attain Thy purposes and establish a peace that shall endure.

Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.
℣. May the Almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.
℟. Amen.
℣. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
℟. Amen.

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SATURDAY

[*Intention: For our Lady's patronage on behalf of our King and realm.*]

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. I believe.

℣. O God, come to my assistance.

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Ant. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Ps. xix.

Exaudiat te Dominus.

A prayer for the King.

MAY the Lord hear thee in the day of tribulation: may the name of the God of Jacob protect Thee.

May He send thee help from the sanctuary: and defend thee out of Sion.

May He be mindful of all thy sacrifices: and may thy whole burnt offering be made fat.

May He give thee according to thy own heart; and confirm all thy counsels.

We will rejoice in thy salvation: and in the name of our God we shall be exalted.

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The Lord fulfil all thy petitions: now have I known that the Lord hath saved His anointed.

He will hear him from His holy heaven: the salvation of His right hand *is* in powers.

Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

They are bound, and have fallen: but we are risen, and are set upright.

O Lord, save the king: and hear us in the day that we shall call upon Thee.

Glory be.

Ps. xx.

Domine, in virtute.

IN Thy strength, O Lord, the king shall joy; and in Thy salvation He shall rejoice exceedingly.

Thou hast given him his heart's desire: and hast not withholden from him the will of his lips.

For Thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones.

He asked life of Thee: and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

His glory is great in Thy salvation: glory and great beauty shalt Thou lay upon him.

For Thou shalt give him to be a great blessing for ever and ever: Thou shalt

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make him joyful in gladness with Thy countenance.

For the king hopeth in the Lord: and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.

Let Thy hand be found by all Thy enemies: let Thy right hand find out all them that hate Thee.

Thou shalt make them as an oven of fire, in the time of Thy anger: the Lord shall trouble them in His wrath, and fire shall devour them.

Their fruit shalt Thou destroy from the earth: and their seed from among the children of men.

For they have intended evils against Thee: they have devised counsels which they have not been able to establish.

For Thou shalt make them turn their back: in Thy remnants Thou shalt prepare their face.

Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in Thy own strength: we will sing and praise Thy power.

Glory be.

Ant. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

The Chapter.

Isa. xxxv.

THE land that was desolate and impassable shall be glad, and the wilderness shall rejoice, and shall flourish like the lily.

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It shall bud forth and blossom, and shall rejoice with joy and praise: the glory of Libanus is given to it: the beauty of Carmel, and Saron, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the beauty of our God.

Strengthen ye the feeble hands, and confirm the weak knees.

Say to the faint-hearted: Take courage, and fear not: behold your God will bring the revenge of recompense: God Himself will come and will save you.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall be free: for waters are broken out in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

And that which was dry land, shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. In the dens where dragons dwelt before, shall rise up the verdure of the reed and the bulrush.

And a path and a way shall be there, and it shall be called the holy way: the unclean shall not pass over it, and this shall be unto you a straight way, so that fools shall not err therein.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any mischievous beast go up by it, nor be found there: but they shall walk *there* that shall be delivered.

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And the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and shall come into Sion with praise, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

℟. Thanks be to God.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Our Father.

℣. Save Thy servants.
℟. Who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
℣. Let not the enemy prevail against them.
℟. Nor the son of iniquity approach to hurt them.
℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
℟. Neither requite us according to our iniquities.
℣. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff Benedict.
℟. The Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon earth; and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.
℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.
℟. Vouchsafe, O Lord, for Thy name's sake, to reward with eternal life all them that do us good. Amen.

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℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.
℟. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
℣. May they rest in peace.
℟. Amen.
℣. For our absent brethren.
℟. Save Thy servants who hope in Thee, O my God.
℣. Send them help, O Lord, from the sanctuary.
℟. And defend them out of Sion.
℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

For the patronage of our Lady and the saints.

Defend us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, from all dangers to mind and body; and, by the intercession of the blessed and glorious Mary, Mother of God, Ever-Virgin, of blessed Joseph, of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, of blessed George and all the saints, of Thy goodness grant to us health and security that, all adversities and errors being destroyed, Thy Church may serve Thee in quietness and liberty.

For the King.

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, that Thy servant, George, our King, who of Thy mercy hath received the government of this realm, may receive also an increase of all virtues, wherewith becomingly

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adorned he may escape every enormity of vice, and, being acceptable in Thy sight, may attain at last to Thee who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

For our soldiers and sailors.

Grant to Thy servants, O Lord God, we beseech Thee, that they may enjoy perpetual health both of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary, Ever-Virgin, that they may be delivered from sadness in this world, and obtain everlasting joy.

For victory.

Almighty and merciful God who, in answer to the prayers of blessed Mary, hast continually manifested through her Thy might and glorified her name: grant that, beneath her powerful patronage, we may reach a victory that is in accord with Thine adorable will.

Through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.
℣. May the Almighty and merciful Lord graciously hear us.
℟. Amen.
℣. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
℟. Amen.

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PART II

DEVOTIONS: GENERAL AND PARTICULAR

1. *Commemoration of Saints.*

O God, who makest us glad by the merits and intercession of blessed George, Thy martyr; mercifully grant that they, who through him implore Thy loving-kindness, may obtain Thy help and protection. Through Christ our Lord.

St. George, Patron of England.

O God, for whose Church Thy glorious Pontiff Thomas died under the swords of the wicked; grant, we beseech Thee, that all who implore his help may obtain the salutary fruit of his prayer. Through Christ our Lord.

St. Thomas, Martyr and Pontiff.

Almighty God, who in Thy servant Saint Patrick hast glorified the virtues of courage and faith; grant that, by his merits and intercession, Thy servants who venerate his name may, through Thy mercy, attain that victory for which they are content joyously to peril their lives. Through Christ our Lord.

St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland.

We humbly entreat Thy Majesty, O Lord, that as the blessed apostle Andrew was known as a preacher and ruler in Thy Church, so he may be for those who

St. Andrew, Patron of Scotland.

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claim his patronage a perpetual intercessor in Thy sight. Through Christ our Lord.

St. David Patron of Wales.

Almighty God, ever glorious in Thy saints, grant, we beseech Thee, that all who from the land of Saint David have gone forth to war, may, under the protection of his merits and prayers, attain the end for which they fight, and ever give thanks to Thy name. Through Christ our Lord.

2. *For Friends.*

In general.

Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the dwellings of Thy servants, and drive far from them all the assaults of the enemy: may Thy holy angels dwell there and keep them in peace, and may Thy blessing be upon them all. Through Christ our Lord.

For one going to the front.

O God of infinite mercy and boundless majesty, whom no distance of place nor length of time can part from those for whom Thou carest; be present to Thy servant . . . who confides in Thee, and, through all the way in which he is to go, be pleased to be his Guide and his Companion. May no adversity harm him; no difficulty oppose him; may all things turn out happily and prosperously for him; that, by the aid of Thy right hand, whatsoever he has asked for with a reasonable desire, he may speedily find brought to good effect. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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We humbly beseech Thy Majesty, O Lord, that Thou wouldst graciously protect with heavenly aid Thy servant . . . who relies on Thy mercy, and keep him safe with Thine unceasing protection; that he may continually serve Thee, and not be parted from Thee by any temptation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For one at the front.

Lord, Thou knowest how busy Thy servant must be to-day: if he forgets Thee, do not Thou forget him.

Soul of Christ, sanctify him;
Body of Christ, save him;
Blood of Christ, inebriate him;
Water from the side of Christ, wash him:
Passion of Christ, strengthen him,
O good Jesu, hear him:
Within Thy wounds hide him.
Suffer him not to be separated from Thee;
From the malicious enemy defend him:
In the hour of death call him:
And bid him come unto Thee;
That with all Thy saints he may praise Thee,
To all eternity.

For a sick or wounded friend.

O God, by whose command the moments of our life run their course; receive our prayers for Thy servant . . . lying sick, on whose behalf we implore Thy mercy; that our fears on account of his danger

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may be turned to joy at his recovery. Through Christ our Lord.

For one departed.

To Thee, O Lord, I commend the soul of Thy servant . . . that, dead unto the world he may live unto Thee; and, whatsoever sins he hath committed through the weakness of his human nature, do Thou, of Thy mercy and pardon, wash away. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant . . . from every bond of sin, that, being raised in the glory of the resurrection, he may be refreshed among Thy saints and elect. Through Christ our Lord.

3. *For our Allies.*

For France.

Remember not, O Lord, the offences but the faith of Thy children; and grant that, purified from all wickedness, they may triumph over their enemies and serve Thee with a constant heart. Through Christ our Lord.

For Belgium.

O most merciful Lord who, whilst hanging on the Cross, didst give to Thy disciple Thy Mother as his charge; grant that they, to whom is entrusted the relic of Thy most precious Blood, may find in her Motherly patronage a support in all their sorrows, and in her prayers an earnest of victory. Who livest and reignest God, for ever and ever.

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O God, who art both the Restorer and the Ruler of mankind; grant, we beseech Thee, that Thy Church may ever be increased by a new offspring, and grow up by the devotion of all the faithful. Through Christ our Lord.

For Russia.

O Christ, our Creator and Redeemer, Almighty Lord God, forgive all their sins to all who are joined to us by friendship, and to all Thy faithful people. Deliver them from all evil, preserve them in all good, and bring them to everlasting joy. Who livest and reignest, God, world without end.

For the Slavonic people.

4. *Penitential.*

Lay not to our charge, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the sins of our fathers and of us Thy children, but, as we make haste to acknowledge our transgressions, do Thou make speed to forgive them. Through Christ our Lord.

Spare, O Lord, spare Thy people; and be not angry with us for ever.

O God, in whose Passion, according to the word of Simeon, a sword of pain pierced the most sweet soul of the glorious Virgin and Mother Mary; mercifully grant that we, who reverently remember her sorrows, may obtain the happy fruits of Thy Passion.

O God, beneath whose eyes every heart

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trembles and all consciences are afraid; be merciful to the groanings of all, and heal the wounds of all: that, as not one of us is free from fault, so not one may be shut out from pardon. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, who through the depths of the Red Sea didst bring Thy people to the promised country; grant that we Thy servants, who are passing through deep waters of tears and blood, may come at last, by Thy mercy, to the Land of Peace. Through Christ our Lord.

5. *For special Classes of Persons.*

For children.

Most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, who wert Thyself once a child in Mary's arms, and who didst bid all little ones to be brought unto Thee; have mercy on all children in peril, terror, or any other adversity: comfort them in their sorrows; heal them of their torments; deliver them from all dangers; and gather them safely in Thine arms. Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

For maidens.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary Ever-Virgin, have pity on all maidens who are in peril or fear. Send Thine angels to be their guardians; preserve their innocence, and deliver them from all dangers to body or soul; that, with Mary and the choirs

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who follow her in Paradise, they may rejoice for ever in Thy most pure presence. Who livest and reignest, God, for ever and ever.

For the aged.

Most merciful Father, we entreat Thy compassion for all the aged who suffer, whether in body, mind, or estate. Grant that their afflictions may be lightened by Thy loving-kindness, and their misery dispelled by Thy mercy; that, trusting in Thee who art their only security, they may pass the rest of their days in confidence, and come at last to that eternal home; where Thou with the Son and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

For our rulers and statesmen.

O God, in virtue of whose Majesty Kings reign and those in authority receive their power; direct by the inspirations of Thy Holy Spirit, those in whose hands lie the conduct and issues of war; give them patience in adversity, guidance in perplexity, mercy in victory, firmness in triumph, and wisdom in all things; that, strengthened by Thy justice, and kindled by Thy love, they may in due time order all affairs to Thy glory and the final good of souls. Through Christ our Lord.

For those who direct our armies and fleets.

Lord God of battles, guide, we beseech Thee, by Thine infinite wisdom, all those who lead our armies and our fleets against the foe; keep them watchful in danger,

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courageous in tribulation, resolute in conflict, undismayed in adversity, and honourable at all times; that, led by Thee to a swift and final victory, they may establish peace on a foundation that cannot be moved. Through Christ our Lord.

A thanksgiving on news of a victory.

We render thanks to Thee, O Lord, who relievest us from the pressure of temporal affliction, that Thou mayest set us forward on the way to everlasting joys. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6. *In Times of Special Distress.*

In extreme anxiety.

Have compassion, O most merciful Saviour, upon this poor heart of mine that, even after so long an experience of Thy power and love, still has so little true confidence in Thee.

I know that all that Thou doest is done well.

I know that Thou wilt lay no heavier burdens upon me and mine than we are well able to support by the help of Thy grace.

I know that Thou dost love my beloved with a far greater tenderness than I myself can feel; that Thou art strong when I am weak and patient when I am fretful; that Thou canst do all things and that I can do nothing without Thee; that the shadow of Thy wings is over all the earth, and Thine Everlasting Arms beneath it.

Yet my soul is darkened with misery, and my steps falter in my journey towards Thee.

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Arise upon me, therefore, with light and power; speak to my heart and say, I am thy salvation and thy strength; and then, to me and mine, do what Thou wilt, since all that Thou doest is well.

If it be Thy will that our earthly happiness should continue, blessed be Thy Name!

If it be Thy will that this happiness should be shadowed, and that my heart should be broken—again, blessed be Thy Name.

Though Thou slay me, yet will I put my trust in Thee.

Though Thy Hand should be heavy, yet it is Thy Hand.

Though the Cross should bow me to the earth, it is Thine own Cross that crushes me.

In life and in death, O Lord, I commit all that I have and hope for, to Thee.

After a crushing bereavement.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, broken for love of me, behold my heart broken for love of my friend!

Would to God I had loved him more perfectly!

Would to God I had loved Thee more fervently!

Yet, if my own self-love has made me blind, Thy perfect Love sees and knows all things, and can do for him what I could not.

Accept his sufferings and his death, O Crucified Jesus, in union with Thine own, and, in that union give his soul that

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peace which all the world could never give, and that Light that streams only from Thy glorious Face.

If it be according to Thy Holy Will, and for his comfort, give him the knowledge of how much I loved him, and how bitterly I grieve that I did not love him better.

If it be according to Thy Holy Will and for our own advantage, grant that a sense of communion in Thee may be given to us both; since those who are one with Thee must also be one in Thee.

And, lastly, to me who am left to mourn his departure, grant that I may not sorrow as one without hope for my beloved who sleeps in Thee; but that, always remembering his courage and the love that united us on earth, I may begin again with new courage to serve Thee more fervently who art the only source of true love and true fortitude; that, when I have passed a few more days in this valley of tears and in this shadow of death, supported by Thy rod and staff, I may see him again, face to face, in those pastures and amongst those waters of comfort, where, I trust, he already walks with Thee.

O Shepherd of the sheep, hold him safely on Thy shoulder and against Thy Heart.

O Shepherd of the sheep, have pity upon this little darkened soul of mine.

O Light of the World, shine upon him.

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O Light of the World, shine upon me.

Dear Jesus! be to him and to me, not a judge but a Saviour.

7. *A Prayer in Trouble.*

Help us, O God of our Salvation, and for the glory of Thy name deliver us; be merciful to our sins for Thy name's sake.

Ps. liii.

Deus, in nomine tuo.

SAVE me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me in Thy strength.

O God, hear my prayer: give ear to the words of my mouth.

For strangers have risen up against me and the mighty have sought after my soul: and they have not set God before their eyes.

For behold God is my helper: and the Lord is the protector of my soul.

Turn back the evils upon my enemies: and cut them off in Thy truth.

I will freely sacrifice to Thee, and will give praise, O God, to Thy name: because it is good:

For Thou hast delivered me out of all trouble: and my eye hath looked down upon my enemies.

Glory be.

℣. For the glory of Thy name deliver us.

℟. And deal mercifully with our sins for Thy name's sake.

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Let us pray.

Lord, we beseech Thee, in Thy pity hear the prayers of Thy people, that we who suffer justly for our sins, may, for the glory of Thy name, mercifully be delivered. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We beseech Thee, therefore, help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood.

8. *For our Soldiers and Sailors setting out to the Front.*

Ant. Into the way of peace and prosperity may the Almighty and Merciful Lord direct them, and the angel Raphael accompany them in the way, that with peace, health and joy they may return unto their own place.

THE SONG OF ZACHARY.

Benedictus.

St. Luke i. 68–79.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; because He hath visited and wrought the redemption of His people:

And hath raised up an horn of salvation to us, in the house of David His servant.

As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who are from the beginning.

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Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform mercy to our fathers, and to remember His holy testament.

The oath, which He swore to Abraham our father, that He would grant to us,

That being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we may serve Him without fear,

In holiness and justice before Him, all our days.

And thou, child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to His people, unto the remission of their sins.

Through the bowels of the mercy of our God, in which the Orient from on high hath visited us.

To enlighten them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: to direct our feet into the way of peace.

Ant. Into the way of peace and prosperity may the Almighty and Merciful Lord direct them, and the angel Raphael accompany them in the way, that with peace, health and joy they may return unto their own place.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Our Father.

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℣. Save Thy servants, O my God.
℟. Who put their trust in Thee.
℣. Send to them, Lord, help from Thy holy place.
℟. And succour them out of Sion.
℣. Be to them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
℟. From the face of the enemy.
℣. Let not the enemy prevail over them.
℟. Nor the son of iniquity approach to hurt them.
℣. Blessed be the Lord on this and every day.
℟. The Lord of their salvation give them a prosperous journey.
℣. Shew them Thy ways, O Lord.
℟. And teach them Thy paths.
℣. May their ways be made straight.
℟. To keep Thy commandments.
℣. The crooked shall be made straight.
℟. And the rough roads plain.
℣. The Lord hath commanded His angels concerning thee.
℟. To keep thee in all thy ways.
℣. Lord, hear my prayer.
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

O God, who didst lead Abraham Thy servant from Ur of the Chaldees, and keep him unharmed through all his ways and journeyings; we beseech Thee to

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preserve these Thy servants: be to them, O Lord, a support in their setting out, refreshment by the way, shadow in the heat, shelter in rain and cold, a help in weariness, a guard in adversity, a staff in slippery places, a harbour in storm, and a shield in battle; that, with Thee as their leader, they may go forward in prosperity whithersoever they shall be sent, and return to their own homes again safe at last.

Be present to our supplications, O Lord, and dispose the going of Thy servants in prosperity and health, that, amongst all the adventures of their way and life, they may always be defended by Thine aid.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

9. *For Christians dying on Land or Water without the Aid of a Priest.*

Receive, O Lord, Thy servants into the place of salvation for which they have hoped of Thy mercy. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, from all dangers of hell, and from the snares of sin, and from all tribulations. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Henoch and

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Elias from the common death of all men. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Noe from the flood. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as thou didst deliver Job from his sufferings. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Isaac from the sacrifice and from the hand of his father Abraham. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Lot from Sodom and from the flame of fire. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Moses from the hand of Pharaoh, King of the Egyptians. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Daniel from the den of lions. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver the Three Children from the furnace of burning fire and from the hand of the wicked king. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Susanna from false accusation. Amen.

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Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver David from the hand of Saul and from the hand of Golias. Amen.

Deliver the souls of Thy servants, O Lord, as Thou didst deliver Peter and Paul from prison. Amen.

And, as Thou didst deliver the most blessed Thecla, Thy virgin and martyr, from three most terrible torments; so deign to deliver the souls of these Thy servants, and make them to rejoice with Thee in the midst of heavenly bliss. Amen.

Most Merciful God, Father of compassion and God of all comfort, who desirest that none should perish who believeth and hopeth in Thee; according to the multitude of Thy mercies look favourably upon Thy servants whose true faith and Christian hope commend them to Thee. Visit them with Thy salvation; and, through the Passion and Death of Thine only-begotten Son, do Thou lovingly bestow upon them the remission and forgiveness of all their sins; that, in the hour of their departing, they may find Thee a merciful Judge, and, washed from all stain in the blood of Thy Son, may pass to eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heart of Jesus, once in agony, have pity on the dying.

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10. *To our Lady.*

A prayer of St. Bernard.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thine intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto Thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother, to thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions; but in thy clemency hear and answer me. Amen.

A salutation.

Hail Mary, full of sorrow; the Crucified is with thee: tearful art thou amongst women, and tearful is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, grant tears to us, crucifiers of Thy Son, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

11. *Suggestions for Intentions on the Rosary.*

I. The Joyful Mysteries:

The Annunciation. For an honourable peace.

The Visitation. For all maidens.

The Nativity. For all mothers and children.

The Presentation. For soldiers setting out.

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The Finding in the Temple. For the conversion of sinners, and the forgiveness of outrages.

II. The Sorrowful Mysteries:

The Agony in the Garden. For the terrified and anxious.

The Scourging. For the wounded and sick.

The Crowning with Thorns. For doctors and nurses.

The Way of the Cross. For the dying.

The Death on the Cross. For the dead.

III. The Glorious Mysteries:

The Resurrection. For Victory.

The Ascension. For rulers of all countries involved in war.

The Coming of the Holy Ghost. For the increase of religion amongst non-Catholics.

The Assumption of our Lady. For the return of lapsed Catholics.

The Coronation of our Lady. For the triumph of the Church.

12. *The Stations of the Cross arranged as an intercession for all affected by the war.*

O my God, I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, and I love Thee; and I grieve that I have so often wounded Thee by my sins.

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STATION I.

Jesus is condemned to Death.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy on all who shall die in this war; and grant that they may not die outside Thy grace.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain,
From woe to woe,
To Calvary with Christ we go.
See how His precious Blood
At every station pours!
Was ever grief like His!
Was ever sin like ours!

STATION II.

The Cross is laid on Jesus.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

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My Jesus, have mercy on all who groan under the burden of this war; and give them grace willingly to bear the Cross for Thy sake.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION III.

Jesus falls the first time beneath the Cross.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon all who are crushed by despair or terror; and give them grace to rise up again to hope and confidence in Thee.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

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STATION IV.

Jesus meets His blessed Mother.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon the widowed and bereaved; and give them grace to find in Thee their comfort and help.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION V.

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to bear the Cross.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon all men who tend the wounded; strengthen their hands and encourage their hearts.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

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℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION VI.

Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon all women who assist the afflicted; and give them grace to minister as to Thee.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION VII.

Jesus falls the second time.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy on the weary and exhausted; and give them grace to find in Thee their rest.

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℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION VIII.

Jesus comforts the daughters of Jerusalem.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon all women who weep for sorrow or sin; and keep their hearts in Thine.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION IX.

Jesus falls the third time.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy on the wounded

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and dying; that, whether they live or die, they may be Thine.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION X.

Jesus is stripped of His Garments.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy on the destitute and the homeless; and give them grace to find in Thee their shelter and defence.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION XI.

Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

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My Jesus, have mercy upon all who now lie in pain, whether of body or mind; and give them grace to accept all from Thy hand.

℣. Jesus, help!

℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION XII.

Jesus dies upon the Cross.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy upon all now in their last agony; and give them grace to lift their dying eyes to Thee.

℣. Jesus, help!

℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.

℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION XIII.

Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

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My Jesus, have mercy on all whose souls are dead in iniquities; and restore them to newness of life.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

STATION XIV.

Jesus is laid in the Tomb.

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
℟. Because through Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, have mercy on the souls of the faithful departed; and give them, in the Paradise of Thy Presence, light and peace.

℣. Jesus, help!
℟. Mary, pray!

Our Father. Hail Mary.

℣. Have mercy on them, O Lord.
℟. Have mercy on them.

From pain to pain, etc.

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the precious Blood of Thine only-begotten Son didst will to

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sanctify the banner of the Cross; grant, we beseech Thee, that those who rejoice in the honour of the Cross may also everywhere rejoice in Thy protection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father Hail Mary. Glory be.

13. *Psalms for Special Occasions.*

After news of victory

Pss. cii.; cxlvii.; cxlviii.; cxlix.; cl.

After news of a reverse

Pss. xlv.; cxxxix.; cxlii.

For a friend

Pss. xc.; cxxiv.; cxxv.

In times of special anxiety or distress

Pss. xvii.; lxix.; cxli.; cxlv.

14. *The Mass "In Time of War."*

Introit. Remember, O Lord, Thy bowels of compassion, and Thy mercies, which are from the beginning of the world; lest our enemies triumph over us: deliver us, O God of Israel, from all our troubles. (*Ps.*) To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust: let me not be ashamed. Glory be to the Father. Remember, O Lord, etc.

Collect. O God, who makest wars to cease, crushing by the might of Thy strong defence the foes of them that put their trust in

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Thee: succour us, Thy servants, who entreat Thy mercy, and break down the savage power of our enemies, that with unceasing thankfulness we may give praise to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lesson.

(Jerem. xlii.) In those days went all the captains of the warriors, and said to Jeremias the prophet: Pray thou for us to the Lord thy God. And the word of the Lord came to Jeremias. And he called all the captains of the fighting men, and all the people from the least to the greatest. And he said to them: Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me, to present your supplications before Him. If you will be quiet and remain in this land, I will build you up, and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for now I am appeased for the evil that I have done to you. Fear not because of the king of Babylon, of whom you are greatly afraid: fear him not, saith the Lord: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand. And I will shew mercies to you, and will take pity on you, and will cause you to dwell in your own land; saith the Lord Almighty.

Gradual.

(Ps. lxxvi.) Thou art the God that alone doest wonders: Thou hast made

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Thy power known among the nations. ℣. With Thy arm Thou hast redeemed Thy people, the children of Jacob and of Joseph. Alleluia. Alleluia. ℣. (Ps. lviii.) Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; and defend me from them that rise up against me. Alleluia.

Gospel. (Matt. xxiv.) At that time, the disciples came to Him privately, saying: Tell us when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the consummation of the world? And Jesus answering, said to them: Take heed that no man seduce you: For many will come in My name saying, I am Christ: and they will seduce many. And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that ye be not troubled. For these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be pestilences, and famines, and earthquakes in places: Now all these are the beginnings of sorrows.

Offertory. (Ps. xvii.) Thou wilt save the humble people, O Lord; but wilt bring down the eyes of the proud; for who is God, but Thou, O Lord?

Secret. Be appeased, O Lord, by the sacrifice which we offer: may it be our safeguard in all the dangers of war, and may it

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enable us to count upon the sureness of Thy defence. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Ps. xxx.) Bow down Thy ear to me: make haste to deliver me.

Communion.

O God, the Sovereign Lord of Kingdoms and of Kings, who in chastising dost heal, and in forgiving save: shew forth upon us Thy mercy and restore to us the quiet times of peace, that we may make use of them to our amendment. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Post-communion.

15. *Miserere.* Ps. l.

A psalm of humiliation and sorrow.

HAVE mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy.

And according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my iniquity.

Wash me yet more from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my iniquity, and my sin is always before me.

To Thee only have I sinned, and have done evil before Thee: that Thou mayst be justified in Thy words, and mayst overcome when Thou art judged.

For behold I was conceived in iniquities; and in sins did my mother conceive me.

For behold Thou hast loved truth: the uncertain and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made manifest to me.

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Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

To my hearing Thou shalt give joy and gladness; and the bones that have been humbled shall rejoice.

Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create a clean heart in me, O God: and renew a right spirit within my bowels.

Cast me not away from Thy face; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and strengthen me with a perfect spirit.

I will teach the unjust Thy ways: and the wicked shall be converted to Thee.

Deliver me from blood, O God, Thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall extol Thy justice.

O Lord, Thou wilt open my lips: and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would indeed have given it: with burnt-offerings Thou wilt not be delighted.

A sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit: a contrite and humbled heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Deal favourably, O Lord, in Thy good-will with Sion; that the walls of Jerusalem may be built up.

Then shalt thou accept the sacrifice of

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justice, oblations and whole burnt-offerings: then shall they lay calves upon Thy altar.

Glory be.

16. *Te Deum Laudamus.*

A canticle of thanksgiving.

WE praise Thee, O God : we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship Thee : the Father everlasting.

To Thee all angels cry aloud : the heavens, and all the Powers therein :

To Thee cherubim and seraphim : continually do cry.

Holy, holy, holy : Lord God of Sabaoth.

Heaven and earth are full : of the majesty of Thy glory.

The glorious choir of the Apostles : praise Thee.

The admirable company of the Prophets : praise Thee.

The white-robed army of Martyrs : praise Thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge Thee.

The Father : of an infinite majesty.

Thy adorable, true : and only Son.

Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.

When Thou tookest upon Thee to

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deliver man : Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When Thou hadst overcome the sting of death : Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.

We pray Thee therefore help Thy servants : whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy saints : in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save Thy people : and bless Thine inheritance.

Govern them : and lift them up for ever.

Day by day : we magnify Thee.

And we praise Thy name for ever : yea, for ever and ever.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day : to keep us within sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy be shewed upon us : as we have hoped in Thee.

O Lord, in Thee have I hoped : let me not be confounded for ever.

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